

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - District 4 Toll Bridge Program

333 Burma Rd.
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 622-5660, (510) 286-0550 fax



*Flex your power
Be energy efficient!*

September 15, 2009

Contract No. 04-0120F4
04-SF-80-13.2 / 13.9
Self-Anchored Suspension Bridge
Letter No. 05.03.08-000027

Michael Flowers
Project Executive
American Bridge/Fluor, A JV
375 Burma Road
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Michael Flowers,

Transverse Linear Indications in OBG Side Plates, Edge Plates, and Bottom Plates

The Department has recently discovered an increase in the number of transverse linear indications on the welds connecting the respective stiffeners to the Side Plates, Bottom Plates, and Edge Plates. Indications such as those mentioned above were documented on September 05, 2009, when a Caltrans Quality Assurance (QA) Inspector performed Magnetic Particle Testing (MT) on two Edge Plates from Segments 12AE and 12CE. During this inspection, twenty-four transverse linear indications were discovered on three welds connecting the Stiffeners to the Edge Plates. The results of this inspection were documented by the Department in Incident Report 684. The Department provided verbal notification to ABF QC Inspector, Chang Bao Qian, shortly after the indications were discovered. Currently, no repair work has been performed at said locations.

The Department is concerned that the transverse indications found in the areas mentioned above may be indicative of transverse cracking, and believes it prudent to investigate their extent and nature. The Department would like to partner with ABF in order to determine if the transverse indications discovered on the Edge Plates from Lift 12 are transverse cracks or other indications. Also, the Department proposes that the weld areas be gradually removed by means of grinding and MT be performed after each intermittent grinding pass to verify if transverse cracking is present.

Please contact Doug Coe if you would like to discuss this matter further or have any questions.

Sincerely,

GARY PURSELL
Resident Engineer

cc: R. Morrow, P. Siegenthaler
File: 05.03.08-000027